

Date: March 6, 2013

Re: Support for Grant Funds for the Town of Yucca Valley Police Department

To: State of California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division

From: Douglas Parham, Western San Bernardino County Landowners' Ass'n

We are a grass roots organization of residents in the high desert area of western San Bernardino County who are deeply concerned about the widespread trespass and damage to private property and public lands in the high desert areas. Our communities suffer from unmanaged, uncontrolled and illegal ORV (off-road vehicle) activity that destroys private property, roads, berms, flood control infrastructure, wilderness areas, and public lands off limits to ORVs. Designated routes become *de facto* open areas where these vehicles have denuded the landscape of vegetation--this in spite of the fact that nearby there are hundreds of thousands of acres specifically set aside for off-road recreation. Riders commit these crimes with impunity since the area law enforcement is underfunded and understaffed and since the ORVs are not required to display any kind of visible identification, it is next to impossible to identify them for law enforcement.

**We want to express our enthusiastic support for funding for the Yucca Valley Police**

**Department** including the excellent work by the County Sheriff's ORV Team under the direction of Sergeant Jason Radeleff. Sgt. Radeleff has met with the community to obtain their input about problem areas and repeat offenders, produced effective public service announcements for major holiday weekends, deployed electronic message boards in high trafficked areas, sought information and conducted targeted enforcement in problem areas, supports large format informational kiosks and works cooperatively with other law enforcement agencies including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

We need more law enforcement on the ground, educational campaigns, public service announcements, higher fines and the confiscation of vehicles of repeat offenders. With the current schedule of low fines, many riders consider any fines they have to pay as part of their ticket to ride anywhere they wish. The Town of Yucca Valley Police department has to contend with the spill over of illegal ORV activity from huge gatherings of ORVs such as the King of Hammers and the impact from holiday weekends at the Johnson Valley ORV areas.

It is important to note that Sgt. Radeleff and his dedicated team of law enforcement officers work cooperatively with the community and other law enforcement agencies and is sensitive to the needs of different constituencies as they balance responsible recreation with the rights of area residents.

Sincerely,

Douglas Parham, President

Western San Bernardino County

Landowners' Association

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